Executive Proclamation State of South Dakota

Office Of The Governor

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive, degenerating brain disorder that claims the lives of 120,000 Americans every year; and,

WHEREAS, The cause of this regressive illness is yet unknown, but specialists have determined that it is not caused by hardening of the arteries, but that it involves the deterioration of nerve endings in the outer layer of the brain; and,

WHEREAS, Often Alzheimer's disease is mistaken for senility, for its victims are often older people who slowly become more confused, disoriented, and child-like; and,

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a cruel ailment that financially and emotionally devastates entire families, currently afflicts one and a half million Americans, and has even been known to reduce vital, intelligent, middle-aged adults to helpless, infantile invalids; and,

WHEREAS, At present there is no cure for this hideously crippling killer, and it is now known to be the fourth leading cause of death in America; and,

WHEREAS, It is important that family members enlist the aid of a doctor when older relatives display erratic behavior, for such personality changes are often discounted as the normal processes of aging, which they are not; and,

WHEREAS, Public awareness and education about Alzheimer's disease is essential, for studies show that nearly 15 percent of those over 65 are afflicted with it in some form:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim the week of November 21 to November 27, 1982, as

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE WEEK

in South Dakota, with hopes that through a better informed public that we can give greater support and comfort to families whose lives have been drastically altered by this disease.

ATTEST:

ALICE KUNDERT, SECRETARY OF STATE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Eighteenth Day of November, in the Year of Our Lord, Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Two

WIELIAM J. JANISHOW, GOVERNOR